

SENATE BILL 231

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b) and (c) and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student at an eligible postsecondary institution shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply for the scholarship upon attempting twenty-four (24), forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), or ninety-six (96) semester hours, at which time student eligibility shall be reviewed. At the end of any semester in which the student eligibility is reviewed, the student shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25 to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(b) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted one hundred twenty (120) semester hours to continue to receive the scholarship.

(c) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 at the end of a semester in which student eligibility is reviewed, may regain the HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE scholarship, achieves a cumulative grade

point average of at least 2.25 at the end of any semester in which eligibility would have been reviewed under this section had the student not lost the scholarship, and reapplies for the scholarship. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time, by failing to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25 at the end of a subsequent semester in which academic qualifications are reviewed, may not regain the scholarship. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this subsection (c) for semester hours attempted in order to regain the scholarship.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e)(1), is amended by deleting the figure "2.75" and by substituting instead the figure "2.25".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e)(2), is amended by deleting the figure "2.75" and by substituting instead the figure "2.25".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e)(2), is further amended by deleting the figure "3.0" and by substituting instead the figure "2.25".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929, is amended by deleting subdivision (c) and by substituting instead the following:

(c) At the time that the student transfers to an eligible postsecondary institution, the student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25 to be eligible academically for the scholarship.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931, is amended by deleting subdivision (b) and by substituting instead the following:

(b) A nontraditional student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) semester hours, if the student has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25. A nontraditional student who does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least

2.25 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25 at the end of any semester in which eligibility is reviewed under Section 49-4-911.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking Tennessee HOPE scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year and academic years thereafter.